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Message Text

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PAGE 01 NICOSI 03316 211044Z

12
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 OMB-01 /070 W
---------- 025042
P 211026Z OCT 76
FM AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4675
INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L NICOSIA 3316

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, LE
SUBJECT: CHAMOUN REACTION TO RIYADH AGREEMENT

1. OUR VOLUNTEER INFORMANT OF DOUBTFUL RELIABILITY, TRAVIS BENKENDORFOR, RETURNED TO CYPRUS OCT 20. IN CONVERSATION WITH AMBASSADOR FOLLOWING MORNING, HE SAID HE HAD SEEN CHAMOUN FOLLOWING ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE RIYADH AGREEMENT. CHAMOUN, BENKENDORFOR ASSERTED, STRONGLY DISAGREES WITH RIYADH AGREEMENT'S PROVISION THAT PALESTINIANS RETURN TO CAMPS WITH SOME OF THEIR ARMS. CHAMOUN ALLEGEDLY TODL BENKENDORFOR THAT UNLESS AGREEMENT IS AMENDED TO DISARM THE PALESTINIANS COMPLETELY, HE WILL (A) CARRY OUT A COUP AGAINST SARKIS, AND (B) LAUNCH AN ALL-OUT ATTACK ON WEST BEIRUT.

2. BENKENDORFOR REPORTED THAT GEMAYEL IS CONTENT WITH THE RIYADH ACCORD.

3. BENKENDORFOR CLAIMS THAT HE IS IN CLOSE AND ALMOST DAILY CONTACT WITH CHAMOUN BUT HE COULD WELL BE AS UNTRUSTWORTHY IN THIS AS IN HIS OTHER PRETENSIONS.
CRAWFORD

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